

here with a single FM transmitter, in fact driving over 200 miles and listening to just 3 radio stations would be impossible in the UK. Still we mustn't complain, look at all those great new community stations we've got now. Excuse me while I go and puke!

## FOCUS

A few weeks ago, a radio ship sailed out of a French port with some publicity on it's way halfway around the world. The ship, "Goddess of Democracy" plans to transmit off the coast of China to that big country with anti-Chinese government programmes. The group behind the project want to be independent, hence the choice of ship and not friendly government txs. However, the ship has no radio mast at present and they will obviously need a decent antenna system if the project is to work, perhaps a mast of some form will be constructed soon. RECC's Norman Nelson commented that a BBC "Late Show" feature on the station did not refer to the "Goddess of Democracy" as a "pirate" which leads to the question, why don't they have the same attitude to Radio Caroline?

DX News: Radio New Zealand Int'l has now upgraded it's transmitters to 100,000 watts which makes them much easier to hear in Europe now, they've been heard on 17680 at 1900 with a good signal. Former power for RNZI was just 7,500 watts. Also down in the Pacific, Radio Australia can be heard each evening from 2030 on 15465. New Orleans based WRNO are now in the clear for most of their early hours channel of 7355 after months of interference from other stations. Radio Nacional de Venezuela are about to start transmitting in English soon on their regular channel in the 25m band.

Stop Press...Stop Press... Radio Mi Amigo should be relayed again on shortwave Sat 31 Mar on 48m 1500-1800. Despite a period of raids on London FM stations, the MA FM tx on 104.3 has yet to be touched. Tune in! Add: 37B Colby Road, Upper Norwood, London SE19 IHA, England.

Activity Magazine - April 1990

Monthly SW/MW Free Radio News from  
3 Greenway, Harold Park, Romford,  
Essex, RM3 OHH, England.

# ACTIVITY

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# MAGAZINE

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## SHORTWAVE (ALL TIMES LOCAL)

GREAT BRITAIN Atlanta Radio are transmitting quite regularly these days, on Sun 11 Mar they could be heard on two channels, 6286 and 7450, both of which provided strong signals. Programmes included Mark Stafford, Mark Davis and "Sound of the Seas" featured an interview with Roger Day, who used to be involved with offshore Radio North Sea. Rumours suggest Atlanta will be on at night soon, presumably between 0000-0200. Hunstanton add.

Britain Radio Int'l were heard Suns 11 and 25 Mar on 6232, a reduced schedule could only be put out on the latter with Roger Davis hosting a different sounding "Radio File" for this once. The frequency has become a little subject to utility interference recently and we often find reception is best by tuning up to 6235.

Radio Confusion made a couple of night time broadcasts during the month on Sats 3 (2300-0000) and 17 (after 00) on 6315 and 6298 resp. The station expects to be fairly active this summer and is looking at transmitting on 13 or 15 MHz. Independent music format with Salisbury add.



# RADIO MIRAGE

Radio East Coast Commercial seem to be keeping to a 1st and 3rd Sun schedule at the moment and were heard Suns 4 and 18 Mar on 6290. The 11 MHz tx was re-activated on 4 Mar with fair signals on 11506 but has since developed a fault. Hunstanton add.

Falcon Radio were noted on Sun 18 Mar on 6849 with a good signal but were not logged elsewhere during the month. Remember that the Northampton add is no longer in use and letters should now go via Cedex in France. Format is a wide range of rock music under the slogan "The Rock of Europe". Station active on either 6849 or 6870.

Radio Freedom Int'l are becoming one of the most active SW free radio stations these days with regular broadcasts on 6205: Heard Suns 4 and 18 Mar, also night time Sat 24 Mar after 2100. On 18 Mar, much of their transmission was obliterated by careless operating by Radio Orang Utan who came up on the same frequency. RFI's original broadcasts date back to the first wave of SW free radio, they apparently started way back in 1973. RFI, 67 Elm Row, Edinburgh EH7 4AQ, Scotland.

Freesound Radio can be heard now twice a month since the beginning of the new 2nd Sat service on Sat 10 Mar, of which we heard the last 45 mins with Richard Grahame's oldies show which also featured some airchecks of offshore Swingin' Radio England. The station were also duly noted Sun 25 Mar with their regular broadcast. The frequency of 6200 is still providing clear reception. Op Mark King had a QSO with Mike Wilson (Orion) on Sat 24 Mar following 1400 for about 45 mins.

Radio 48 resumed their active interest in 7 MHz night time transmissions on Fri 23 Mar with a short test on 7390 just after 1900, reception was fair to good via the 20 watt tx, this time used with a compromise "L antenna". Op Howard

## BRITAIN RADIO 48 METRE BAND S.W. SUNDAY MORNINGS INTERNATIONAL

Bell hopes to start proper broadcasts within the next few months in which time you should hear another Sun morn 48m transmission. The 7 MHz service would go out on either a Fri or Sat night and there is a remote chance of a 100 watt tx being used!

KING Radio were relayed by perhaps Freesound on 6233 Sat 24 Mar and the programme going out was the "Psychadelic Snarl" with Paul Windsor hosting.

Radio Mirage were heard with more of their occasional broadcasts over the 3rd weekend in Mar: Sat night 17 poor signals were found on 6284, the following morning transmissions could be heard on 7366 and later 6280. Mirage, Box 2778, Elverhoy, 9001 Tromso, Norway.

Radio Orion transmitted each Sun in the month on 6299 with Mike Wilson, Paul Johnson and Paul Fraser all being heard, the station has been the last on the bands with closedowns around 1500. Indeed, on Sun 18 Mar they only closed at 1530 because of limited channel choice, from 6299 they went to 6290, then 6728 before calling a day. Sun 4 Mar saw the latest edition of the letters show after the Box was paid a visit. Sat 3 (test) and 24 Mar the "Big O" returned for some Sat broadcasts but Mike commented that there's no plans to bring back the Sat service on a regular basis. Most broadcasts are giving out a phone line for you to call in on, tel (0384) 68328.

Radio Pamela Int'l started the month with some relays via Orion (Suns 11 and 18) and ended by resuming direct SW transmissions for the first time since September 1988. The new tx came on Sun 18 Mar on 6340 but due to a utility the signal was only available with a narrow filter option. This past weekend (24/25 Mar) a 6224



crystal was plugged in for clearer reception, with an "engineering test transmission" being logged at 2338 on Sat 24 Mar with fair signals and then Sun morn 25 Mar for a lengthy broadcast with strong signals received here. A phone line was in use for this latter broadcast, (0634) 573500 and the station received 15 calls for their trouble. Another night time broadcast is planned this Sat 31 Mar and Sun morn programmes are expected each week. Add: 131 Napier Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 4HH, England.

Radio Stella Int'l made a couple of night time appearances on 6319 Sats 17 and 24 Mar. The former s started early and was heard here at 1919 but the latter didn't arrive until around midnight. Fair and poor resp.

Wonderful Free Radio London will be back on the air during April, planned is Sun 29 Apr and this may last for 5 hours. Beforehand, there's a chance of some tests on either 15725 or another one of their HF channels.

THE CONTINENT Radio London were raided by the Dutch authorities on Sun 11 Mar when the station were active on 6315. One week before they had tested on the same channel and announced the date and times of their next broadcast. The Dutch post office took this as an invitation, during the raid a representative of the Dutch post apparently asked the operator if he was Radio London, VOTN or Rainbow Radio Germany. It has also been reported that the rep told the London op that to his knowledge no interference had been caused but seemingly there had been a complaint by the British DTI.

Rainbow Radio Germany are the source of more bad news as we're told they were raided also (presumed at 1100 on Sun 18 Mar). This raid is less likely to be such a blow since RRG are known to use "mobile" sites with the tx left unmanned. But we have no further news on the raid at

this moment. The station has been extremely active in recent months and it was only last Sep they lost a tx to a thief. In the past month RRG had been noted Sat nights (plus one Fri night) together with daytime broadcasts.

Voice of Europe apparently started their regular service on Thu 15 Mar, we have listened to them since but have only found music and announcements although to listen for any lengthy period is difficult due to the strong utility interference. Some sources believe the station is related to Radio Nuova Musica which used 7485 a few years ago. Add is reckoned to be: PO Box 26, Pordenone, Italy.

Quality-AM have continued this month, Sun 11 Mar they were heard on 15058 with strong signals and Sun 18 Mar they were caught on 9986 after 2000 but fair only with some noise. Some rumours have suggested a Danish site but Holland appears to be most people's guess. Hosting shows are Steve King and Paul Alexander with fast-paced presentation and pop music. Add to write to: Box 85455, 2508 CD The Hague, Holland.

Passion Radio are sorry about the troubles they caused to BRI on Feb 11 but they simply couldn't receive them on 6230 before they went on the air (BRI were off air for a while that morning due to technical problems). Passion has been running some sort of phone-in service with every broadcast and all programmes so far have been live. Add: Postbus 19074, 3501 DB Utrecht, Holland.

Radio Northlight have used a 40 watt "ham" tx for their recent broadcasts on 48 and 19m. Mail can be sent to Postfach 6403, 2300 Kiel 14, West Germany. Do not put any addressee on the envelope as sometimes letters get returned by the post office!

Radio Atlantis could be heard Sun 25 Mar on 7489 with dance music shows in German, reception here was taken as fair to good. They are hoping to start a regular service every 2nd and 4th Sun in the future. The station is not totally new, the op has been on FM for some 3 years. They are not thought to be the same Atlantis station from Germany who were active until around 1983 on 48m.

# PFBS

»The Pirate Freaks Broadcasting Service«



BUFFS AFTER BACKERS IN DRIVE TO GO LEGAL

# Pirates riding On the crest of Sixties revival

By Claire Everett

PIRATE radio, which had its hey-day in the 1960s, is enjoying a revival along with hippy clothes and wild outdoor parties.

The acid house craze has seen new London stations spring up, playing the latest club sounds and broadcasting up-to-the-minute news about "raves".

But Radio Pamela, a station which broadcasts from Gillingham, is a more low-key affair with far more modest aims.

The station is run by Steve Most, Jay Dunstan and a 20-year-old known as DJ Rob. It is an oldies station which concentrates on the '60s and broadcasts on Sunday nights.

"What we are aiming for at the moment is to provide a station purely for the Medway towns. We're prepared to offer free advertising for charity events.

"We're not out to make money and it's funded out of our own pockets. We're doing it for the pure love of radio," said 34-year-old Steve, who has been involved in pirate radio since the early 1970s.

The Radio Pamela disc jockeys build all their own equipment and say the biggest expense is buying records. They try to pick up second-hand bargains at sales to reduce the cost. Old tape decks and other equip-



The Radio Pamela line-up (left to right): Jay Dunstan, DJ Rob and Steve Most.

ment are also bought for next-to-nothing.

They do not have the facilities to broadcast live at present and tape their shows, which are usually between two and three hours long.

Steve said they had tried playing a variety of music styles from heavy metal to hip-hop, but got a better response when they started playing

oldies.

They each have their own specialist shows. Rob sticks to oldies while Jay plays slightly more up-to-date records and has a comic character called Henry Heffalump.

Steve plays discs from the 1960s to the 1980s and his personal favourite is heavy metal, which he manages to slip in occasionally.

Rob is also interested in the weather and plots his own maps. He claims he is rarely wrong.

Radio Pamela was first set up in 1985 and has had to move four times.

Pirate radio stations are unlicensed and can be closed down and equipment confiscated if they are found.

Rob, Steve and Jay are

hoping to get a licence as a community station, but first need to find sponsorship.

"Licences seem to go to the highest bidder. We need people to back us," Steve said.

He said they were eager to become a legal station and provide a truly local service for the Medway towns.

CW684/20



Radio Universe could be heard Sun 4 Mar on 7430 with a fair to good signal, amongst the shows were airchecks such as Energy and the Canadian forces. Wuppertal add.

Pirate Freaks Broadcasting Service favour soul/dance music heavily in their programmes, usually cut with some fine PFBS jingles. Sun 4 Mar on 7481 they were active together with Sat night 24 Mar when they announced live shows on 6295 (fair). Fact is, these live shows were the same as we noted on PFBS back in November. For the early hours (25 Mar) the station went down to 6280.

USA Recently we've talked about the apparent difference in Trans-Atlantic SW reception here in Europe compared to that in the USA and the seemingly more difficult task we have over here. Well during the month we received a list through from FRNS in Lincoln that will surprise many people. The list was compiled by DXer Jim Willet who lives in Grimsby and featured no less than 49 logs of US stations in the last 3 months! They ranged in frequency from Voice of Vigilante on 3445 up to KQSB on 15050. In fact, a number of the stations have not been mentioned by the US "Pirate Pages"! Looking through the list, here's a quick sample: Crystal Ship 4420, KQRP 9935, Radio Bag 3465, Radio North Coast 4470, Voice of Redemption 5850 and WCFR 14400. And then there were many heard on the popular 41m and also a few on 48m. Truly amazing!

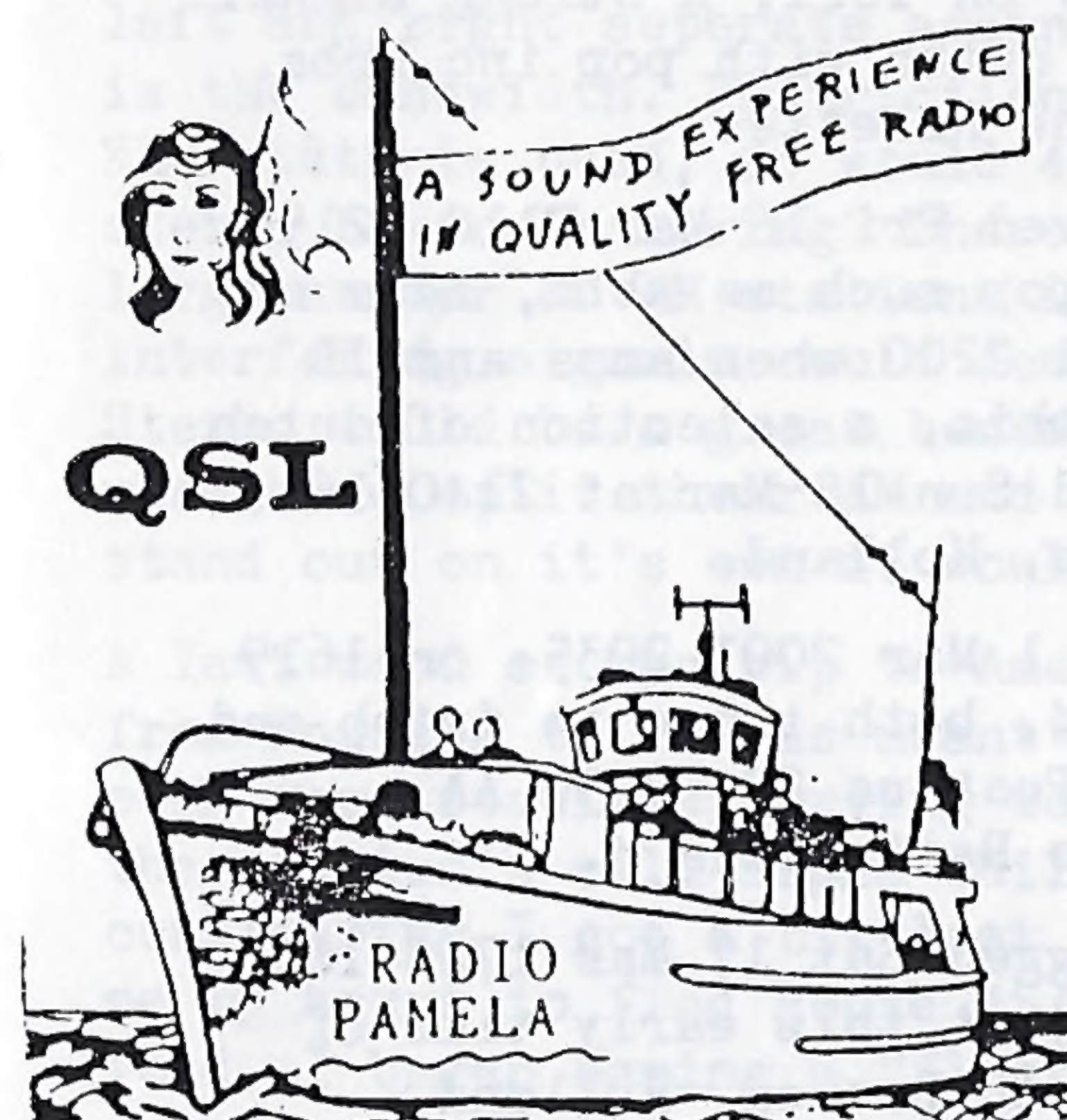
Well now it's time to calm down slightly, one US station available to European listeners recently were Radio USA again relayed via RWI on 6320 on Sun 25 Mar. They gave mention to planned tests by them and Samarai Radio on 19m.

State-side and their scene is going steady: Radio Free Yesterday could be heard in Feb on 7433 with many adverts from the 60s together with "solid gold entertainment". The station claims to broadcast from America's Mid-West. Hope Radio have been active in Mar with "lengthy but interesting thoughts on free radio and then a skit on European settlement in the "New World"... from a native's point of view!" WINN seems new on 7414/7400 with much 60s and 70s rock (Who, Genesis, Hendrix) and a lot of swearing and obscene remarks. Andrew of "PiPa" commented, "One of the worst programmes I've ever heard".

## MEDIUM WAVE

Radio Pamela are going from strength to strength on MW: Heard Suns 4, 11 and 25 Mar with tests noted Wed 21 and Fri 23 Mar. Suns 4 and 11 gave variable reception due to interference but last Sun (25 Mar) was the best yet with a new crystal plugged in to a new frequency of 1609, they suffered little interference and with the power up to 100 watts they radiated a strong signal. They were heard in Scotland with "no problem" and so presumably were getting out all over. The line-up that evening was: 1830 Steve Most, 2100 DJ Rob, 0000 Mike Wilson, 0100 Steve Most and 0200 close. Programmes were lively with a selection of

pop/oldies and it sounded like Steve and Rob were enjoying themselves. They hope to transmit most Sun evenings usually on 1609. Both the phone no and add listed are available for MW so do contact them. Plans are to increase the power steadily over the coming period and hours may get longer! As can be seen by our centre-spread, the station have already attracted the attention in the local press in Kent. With coverage so great they're more a national station!



"Copper Strings" is an oddity to hit the MW airwaves and is fairly local to us we believe: Heard Sats 10, 17 and 24 at 1800 with good reception. The op does not stay on for long and reads from "Spycatcher", talks about depression, mid-wifry and Mother's Day amongst other items! Heard on 1616, 1620 and 1622 so far.

Radio Barones (tent) were heard Mon 19 Mar 0013-0031\* on 1617 with pop music such as Madonna, Europe and Foriegner. Announced as "live from Holland" with a poor to fair signal noted due to interference.



UNID heard Sun 18 Mar 2259-2311+ on 1619 with poor signal, not thought to be Radio Pamela but sounded like an English station. Because of interference, an ID was very difficult but Supertramp mx and Caroline tapes were noted amongst other things.

Radio Seagull could be heard Fri 9 Mar 2209-2328\* on 1611 with a good signal, there were dutch songs until 2230 and then pop including Don Henley, Soft Cell, Water Boys, Small Faces, Kraftwerk and ABC. Mostly in Dutch but with some English right at the end of the broadcast.

Radio Derby (tent) played a mixed dish of pop mx and dutch songs Sat 3 Mar 2215-2245+ on 1621. A strong signal could be received here. Anns in dutch with pop inc Abba, Milli Vanilli, Diana Ross and the Rubettes.

Radio Nooitgedacht were received Fri 16 Mar 2118-2215+ on 1615 with good strength and pop such as Abba, Adam and the Ants and Status Quo up until 2200 when anns and ID were given in dutch. Following this, a selection of dutch songs were played. Also reported Sun 18 Mar at 2140/1614. Add: Postbus 186, 7240 AD Lochem, Holland.

Radio Nova could be heard Thu 1 Mar 2003-2035+ on 1619 and Sat 3 Mar 2206-2215+ on 1614, both times in dutch and with dutch music. Add here is: Postbus 29, 7950 AA Staphorst, Holland. Full name is Radio Nova 4.

Radio Pelikaan (tent) were logged Sat 17 Mar 1748-1800+ on 1614 with a fair signal (QRM) at this early time of the evening. Add: Box 166, 7240 AD Lochem, Holland.

Radio Spanningzoeker (tent) are thought to have been what we heard Sat 24 Mar 2229-2238\* on 1615 with a strong signal and dutch songs, some of which had Eng lyrics! Main clue to ID was QSO which followed after close, a male/female couple came up and mentioned "Spanningzoeker", we don't think they were refering to themselves and the op of our tent log had already mentioned the Hoogeveen maildrop in his broadcast. Phew!

Antenna 2000 can be contacted at Box 50, 41026 Pavullo Nel Frignano, Modena, Italy. Have been reported since last Autumn on 1512, weak though, some nights inaudible.

## ANDY WALKER

I have just returned from the USA, After Houston I hired a car a drove to Dallas. I found something wasn't quite right with the AM receiver on the car radio. I am of course talking about the next "major thing" in British broadcasting - AM Stereo. I had only heard AM Stereo on a cassette but after listening to it driving at 65 MPH on a freeway it works well and sounds great. The Motorola system is most common in the States and this is how it works: It transmits the left plus right audio (momo) as a normal AM signal, allowing full mono compatability. Meanwhile, the left minus right audio signal is sent as a seperate signal, the receiver decoding them both to make left and right seperate again. The problem here in Europe is the bandwidth. Restrictions 9 KHz, in the States 10 KHz width is used, so would 4.5 KHz audio bandwidth for stereo be worth having? There is a danger that with the large number of AM stations in the UK and Europe, interfering signals could destroy the stereo effect. AM Stereo would be a great bonus to UK broadcasters, many of whom have split their AM and FM services. So to make AM stand out on it's own it would be a great bonus.

A last word on my trip to America: Driving the 215 miles from Houston to Dallas meant it gave me a chance to hear even more stations. Trying to make a mental note of all the station's call-signs while driving wasn't easy, considering I got a bit lost leaving Houston which took me 1½ hours to find Route 45. Once I was on the right road, I began having a "flick" a-round-the-dial, farming reports, gospel music and the word of the Lord, local sports and KTAM 1230 KHz, a great oldies station playing 60s and 70s rock 'n' roll, so you can guess what I listened to for the following 60 miles. I didn't have much of a chance to have a good listen to the radio while I was in Dallas, but a general whizz up and down the dial gave me the impression it was as good as Houston. The only station I listened to in the 19 hours I spent there was oldies K-LUV (KLUV) which, after a good night's sleep and then visiting Main Street where John F. Kennedy was shot, I could receive on my return journey a 100 miles out of Dallas, still in stereo. You can't do that over